

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A feeding device of a splicing tape for an automatic splicing device of webs, the automatic splicing device splicing a first web being fed from an active roll along a main delivery path to wrap a filling material into a rod shape and a second web drawn from a standby roll in a stand-by state along a sub-delivery path with a splicing tape fed from said feeding device between the first and second webs, and cutting the first web upstream from a splicing portion of the first web and the second web, the main delivery path and the sub-delivery path each having a feeding position for receiving supply of said splicing tape; said feeding device comprising:

a feeding reel wound with a web-like base material, wherein the base material has a large number of splicing tapes attached thereto at prescribed intervals in a longitudinal direction thereof;

a take-up reel capable of taking up the base material fed from said feeding reel;

a feeding path extending between said feeding reel and said take-up reel to guide the feeding of the base material, said feeding path including a peeling member located above said feeding position, said peeling member having a sharp tip directed to said feeding position, thus peeling one splicing tape off the base material and making said splicing tape hang from the base

material toward said feeding position when the base material passes said tip of said peeling member; and

driving means for feeding every given length of the base material from said feeding reel by controlling rotation of said take-up reel,

wherein said splicing tape has longitudinal rigidity with respect to a direction along a longitudinal direction of the first and second webs and width rigidity with respect to a direction along a width direction of the first and second webs, said width rigidity being smaller than said longitudinal rigidity.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The feeding device according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 5, wherein said splicing tape is a double-faced splicing tape to be located between the first web and the second web to splice the first and second webs together; and

the automatic splicing device feeds the second web at the same speed as a delivery speed of the first web to splice the first and second webs together with said hanging double-faced splicing tape, and cuts the second web downstream from said splicing portion simultaneously with the cutting of the first web.

8. (Original) The feeding device according to claim 7, wherein the feeding device further includes an air nozzle located in the vicinity of said tip of said peeling member, said air

nozzle jetting air from a downstream side of said tip toward said tip in a feeding direction of the base material.

9. (Original) The feeding device according to claim 7, wherein the feeding device has an operating position located right above said feeding position and a retreating position located away from said feeding position.